

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EUR-25 EA-11 FEA-02 AGR-20

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-03 INR-11

INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20

CIEP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /210 W

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R 312304Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3047

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE PROBLEMS

REF: MEXICO 4928, STATE 110296 AND 133281

1. AT THE REQUEST OF LIC. FRANCISCO RAMOS CANTORAL, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE, EMBASSY REPS MET JULY 30 WITH HIM TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY APPROACHES GOM IS CONSIDERING RELATIVE CURRENT WORLD MEAT SITUATION. ACCORDING TO RAMOS CANTORAL DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOM AND THERE IS A GENERAL CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR MEAT AND CATTLE PRICES AROUND THE WORLD AND THEY BELIEVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IS REQUIRED TO PREVENT A SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRISIS FOR THIS INDUSTRY. HE POINTED OUT THAT CATTLE IS A MAJOR INDUSTRY IN MEXICO AND ANY SIGNIFICANT DETERIORATION IN PRICES WOULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE MEXICANS ECONOMY.

2. THE GOM WANTS TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ANY INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ALREADY IN EXISTANCE OR PLANNED WHERE THIS SUBJECT IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BEING DISCUSSED. THEY ARE ALSO CONSIDERING SUGGESTING A

SPECIAL MEETING WITH US REPS TO HAVE A FULL DISCUSSION ON SOLVING THIS POTENTIAL PROBLEM. RAMOS CANTORAL INDICATED THAT MOST LIKELY THE MEXICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE USED TO SET UP THESE CONTACTS, BUT ALTERNATIVELY WOULD WELCOME DISCUSSIONS IN MEXICO CITY THROUGH US EMBASSY.

3. THE GOM AGREES WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH US POSITION THAT A MAJOR EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO STIMULATE MEAT CONSUMPTION ON A WORLD WIDE BASIS, AND THAT INTERNATIONAL MARKETS SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN. MEXICANS STILL PLAN APPROACH EUROPEANS AND JAPANESE ON MARKET ACCESS AS WE INDICATED IN REFTEL. CONSIDERATION IS ALSO BEING GIVEN WITHIN GOM CIRCLES ON MEETING WITH CENTRAL AMERICANS AND OTHER HOOF-AND-MOUTH FREE EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS SUPPLY MANAGEMENT. RAMOS CANTORAL INDICATED THAT THE GOM IS AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED IN SUPPLY MANAGEMENT VIS-A-VIS CONSUMING COUNTRIES AND THAT THE GOM IS NOT IN ANY WAY THINKING IN TERMS OF ACTIONS SIMILAR TO WHAT THE CENTRAL AMERICANS ARE TAKING ON BANANAS OR BY PETROLEUM PRODUCERS, BUT RATHER WANT TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM WHEREBY THE EXPORTING COUNTRIES COULD EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND COORDINATE THEIR INTERNATIONAL MARKETINGS. THIS IS ONE SUBJECT THE MEXICANS WANT TO DISCUSS IN MORE DETAIL WITH US REPRESENTATIVES.

4. IN VIEW OF THE GOM INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN ANY EXISTING FORUMS OR ONES TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR DISCUSSIONS OF WORLD MEAT PROBLEMS, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON WHAT HAS OR IS BEING DONE IN THIS AREA TO PASS ON TO THE MEXICANS. BASED ON OUR CONVERSATION WITH RAMOS CANTORAL IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE MEXICANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS AND WANT TO MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION IN RESOLVING THEM.

5. DURING CONVERSATION, SUBJECT CAME UP OF POSSIBLE MEXICAN PARTICIPATION IN GATT GROUPS AND WE POINTED OUT THAT IF MEXICO WERE A MEMBER OF GATT THEY WOULD HAVE A READY MADE FORUM TO AIR THEIR PROBLEMS ON MEAT. RAMOS CANTORAL AGREED BUT SAID GOM POSITION STILL AGAINST MEMBERSHIP SINCE THEY BELIEVE NO POINT IN PAYING FOR SOMETHING THEY ARE ALREADY GETTING FREE.

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6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING BRIEF SUMMARY OF ANY CURRENT INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS (IN GATT OR FAO) CONCERNING WORLD MEAT TRADE, PARTICULARLY IN BEEF. ALSO USG LIKELY REACTION IF GOM WERE TO INITIATE REQUEST FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH US PER ABOVE.

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Message Attributes

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